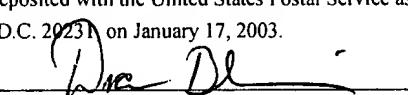


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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 17, 2003.


Diane Blevins

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

R. BOCH et al.

Serial No.: 09/833,406

Filing Date: April 11, 2001

For: DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR
HYDROPHOBIC DRUGS

Examiner: G. Kishore

Group Art Unit: 1615

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REPLY AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated July 17, 2002 for which a response was initially due on October 17, 2002. A petition for a three (3) month extension of time is enclosed herewith. Accordingly, this Reply is believed to be timely filed.

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Action and request reconsideration in light of the following amendments and discussion.